

TriniTidings



Advent 2026 Trinity United Church Portage la Prairie, MB

Phone: 204-857-4471

E-mail:

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Website:

www.trinityunitedportage.ca

Facebook group:

Trinity United Church
Portage la Prairie

Instagram:

[trinityportage@portagechurch](https://www.instagram.com/trinityportage@portagechurch)

YouTube:

Trinity Portage

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

9:00 a.m. – noon

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Office Hours

Staff will work in our office until noon, Wednesday, December 24

- The office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Friday, December 26
- There will be regular office hours December 29 - 31 (9 a.m. - noon, 1 – 4 p.m.)
- The office will be closed on Thursday, January 1.

For 2025 tax receipts, donations must be received by noon on Wednesday, December 31.

COMING UP On SUNDAYS at TRINITY

You are welcome to join us in person at Trinity or access our online feed through our zoom platform. The zoom link is emailed out each week, is available on our website, and in our Facebook group. If you need help accessing our online worship, please be in touch with the church office. You are always welcome to come through the front doors and join us in person! Doors open before 10 a.m. and we start at 10:30 a.m. This Advent, join us for **“And Peace to All on Earth”**



November 30

Advent 1

Worship Leaders:

Julie Baker & Elijah Mwandila
BBBS Winter Wonderland

December 07

Advent 2

Worship Leaders:

Elijah Mwandila & Julie Baker
Sock It To Ya Toss!
Bring Gifts of Grace!

December 14

Advent 3

Worship Leader:

Julie Baker
Communion
UCW Xmas Baking Sale

December 21

Advent 4

Worship Leaders:

Julie Baker & Elijah Mwandila

December 28

Season of Christmas

Worship Leader:

Julie Baker

Christmas Eve Wednesday, December 24

The United Churches of Portage la Prairie will offer two Christmas Eve services

5:30 p.m.

“Candlelight & Contemplation”



McKenzie United Church
11th St. NW

7:00 p.m.

**“And Peace to All
on Earth”**

Worship for all ages at
Trinity United Church
15 Tupper St South

The 7:00 p.m. service at Trinity will also be available online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6460700716?pwd=SW9RZDBYVTRpek0ZWFlhWkZ3bXN4Zz09&mn=81411662011>

This Christmas Eve we plan to use various peace symbols from home and around the world. Do you have a symbol of peace in your home that means something to you? Do you have any family traditions that lift up the symbol of peace? If you do, and you would be willing to share them with us (for use on Christmas Eve), please bring them into the church office **before December 7**. Please feel free to address any questions to Elijah or Julie. Thanks for your help!



Sock it To Ya!

On **December 7**, consider donating some new socks that we can provide to the "Reaching Home" program that works to service the unhoused population of Portage la Prairie. Last



year they were very grateful for the generosity that brought warm socks to people who really needed them. We can take socks for granted, but for those who have insecure housing, new clean socks are always needed. Those who access the Reaching Home program walk a lot. Between walking to medical appointments, work opportunities and government support appointments, not to mention accessing soup kitchens and food banks, a lot of miles are logged on foot. That can add up to many pairs of worn out socks and shoes.

We also know that keeping your feet warm and dry is difficult when you spend your days outside, especially in the fall and winter when ice and snow brings cold and even frostbite. Clean dry socks are the best way to prevent skin infections, nail diseases, blisters, fungal infections and even more serious health issues. A painful foot infection is an ordeal for anyone, but imagine how challenging it is when you don't have a home where you can put your feet up and recuperate! Healthy feet are the ticket to mobility. Healthy feet are a part of human dignity. And clean dry socks can make a big difference to healthy feet. They are among the most needed, and least donated items to organizations

in our community that support those in need. SO, bring your brand new socks (because of the health risks, used socks cannot be accepted) ready to donate and to joyfully toss them into our worship leaders' baskets. Elijah was sorry he missed the fun last year, so this year you get to throw them at both ministers!

"Snowflakes" for M&S

When you give to Mission & Service, people living in poverty receive food, shelter and clothing. Refugees are safer and more secure until times are better. Children receive tuition, uniforms or simply a good breakfast so that they can stay in school. Immediate support during crisis and natural disaster is provided and long term support is there after it has passed. Through Mission & Service, you help transform lives and inspire meaning and purpose. Each year during Advent, Trinity puts an extra focus on M & S gifts. This year, a hand made snowflake decoration will be added to our tree for every M & S gift made through Trinity during this season - showing us how we are building a better world together. To learn more about M & S, you can check out <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service/what-mission-and-service>



Milestones & Markers...

Since our last issue

Funerals

Barbara Marie Bradley

October 04, 2025

We also honour the memories of Eileen Mutcher, Marion Thompson and Dick & Estelle Bruce

Baptism

Araya Grace Pangilinan

Daughter of Mitch Pangilinan &

Aleesha Warren

October 26, 2025

Connected & Caring



Winter can be especially challenging for those who are homebound, and we want to make sure no one feels forgotten during the colder months. We're putting together a small token to stay in touch so you can continue to feel connected with your church family, even from home. If you're finding yourself stuck at home this season, please let the church office know (204-857-4471) by **December 4**. We'd be glad to keep in touch and include you in this outreach.

Red Moon Road is coming to Trinity - December 12

Get ready to experience the magic of the season at Whoop & Hollar's **"Christmas**

Spectacular" show, set in the decorated sanctuary of this historic church with great acoustics.

Annually sold out in



Winnipeg, **Manitoba's Red Moon Road** will take the stage with their signature charm and musical mastery, presenting their iconic and highly popular **"Simple Kind of Christmas"** concert.

Red Moon Road's "Simple Kind of Christmas" on tour has all the beloved earmarks of a classic Red Moon Road live show - three-part harmonies from some of Manitoba's finest musicians, lovingly arranged musical offerings woven masterfully together with stories sprinkled with family-friendly repartee.

Audiences will be treated to a tri-lingual evening, with classic carols sung in French, German, and English, as well as future-Christmas classics penned by the Polaris Prize longlisted songsmiths of Red Moon Road, making this **an unforgettable evening of music, warmth, and holiday cheer.**

Featuring an all-star cast (three extra musicians for an almost orchestral evening), listeners will be captivated by the over

20 instruments on stage (Red Moon Road regulars like banjo, mandolin, lap steel, and holiday add-ons like the orchestral and jingle bells).

Tickets \$40 are available

online, at Trinity office, Hills or at the door while quantities last. **17 and under are free.** Sponsored tickets available.

Give yourself, your friends, and/or loved ones the gift of music this holiday season. Consider sponsoring a ticket for someone who may want to attend but is unable to afford it.

MUSIC SAMPLE:

<https://youtu.be/o0FVH8EI9DM>

Increasing Accessibility

In our journey to provide a barrier free, safe environment at Trinity, we continue to be aware of accessibility needs. One of those needs for many people relates to hearing on Sunday mornings. Increasing the volume doesn't always help with understanding, but sometimes if you can read what is being said (close captioning), it can make hearing so much easier. In the church, we have to go 'low tech' for this, but each Sunday, copies of the full text of what is spoken up front is available at the entry tables. Feel free to pick one up and follow along!



Advent - And Peace to All on Earth

Advent season is fast approaching, and it seems like it's already Advent. What comes to your mind whenever Advent comes? Does it lead you to seek more ways of connecting with God? And in this regard, are you considering a place to get some spiritual grounding this Advent?

Whether or not you have an Advent plan or place to meet, Trinity offers the space for this grounding. We are glad to share with you that Trinity will be offering Advent series under the theme: "And Peace to All on Earth."

Our Advent theme seeks to address the relationality that exists between God and people, and creation. Interesting topics such as "Peace in a World of War, Violence, and Conflict," "The Peaceable Kingdom – the Peaceable Community," "Peace and Justice," and "Seeking Signs of Peace" will be explored.

We will also use different symbols of peace from around the world to show us how communities have valued peace, both now and in the past. We hope you will join us in our reflections so that we cannot only build peace within us, but also build peace with all the earth.

Happy Advent Season!
- *Elijah Mwandila*



Celebrating God's Presence Amongst Us



At Christmas we celebrate the marvelous news that God chooses to be with us here on earth "in the flesh" through Jesus. As the old hymn goes "Lo, within a manger lies, God who made the starry skies". Jesus teaches us in a profound way what God is like. Jesus reminds us that God is not far away but ever close at hand throughout all the joys and sorrows of our lives.

However, we do not experience God's presence "in the flesh" with us only through Jesus. We also experience God through all the people we love in our lifetimes. God comes to us as a kiss on the forehead, a hand to hold during the difficult moments, wisdom which shows us a new way forward when we thought we'd reached the end of our rope, a question that requires us to reconsider things we were absolutely certain about. God is felt in the passionate embrace of lovers and the tenderness of an adult holding a newborn child. We see God's face in the laughter and tears of our loved ones. We know God's presence through friends and strangers.

In this season when we think about God being with us here on Earth, we also celebrate all the people in our lives who have made God more fully present for us. At Trinity, one of the ways you can do that is

by making a donation in memory of a loved one who has died. Gifts to Trinity's Memorial Fund help to continue to make God fully present to future generations through worship and Christian education. Memorial gifts are also gladly received to any other ministry of the church, designated, or undesignated.

Trinity will gladly receive donations for any of our funds or projects.

- Donations to the Building Fund help to maintain our historic building to facilitate our current and future ministries.
- Donations to the Operating Fund help to cover everyday expenses such as heat, hydro and salaries.
- Donations to the Mission and Service Fund help with the outreach activities of the United Church of Canada.
- Donations to the Unspecified Bequest Fund are used for whatever needs arise in the church outside our usual budget. This can include various special projects as well as capital expenditures.

Every donation, small or large, helps Trinity to continue to be a source of light in our shadowed world. We are grateful for all our donors, both those who still walk beside us today and those who have died. We celebrate how the light of each person helps us to walk together with courage and faithfulness even in the midst of life's darkness.

And as you're thinking about feeling God's presence amongst us, ask yourself how do you hope to be remembered? It might be worth noting what matters to you, and where a gift to honour your life

could be directed. You might be surprised at the considerable financial gift you make to any organization by placing an invitation in your obituary or funeral plans. Tell your family, discuss with your preferred funeral home, or make a note with your important papers that "memorial donations can be made to...." Then put the paper away, and go and fill the world with God's love.

We thank God for the lives of these faithful people, in whose memory we have received donations since our last issue of TriniTidings:

Ed Ross

Jim Pehura

Eileen Mutcher

Barbara Bradley

Spirituality of a Weekday Walk

A walk to Trinity United Church became taking care of some of the outdoor premises. It is a "gift of caring" that serves both the church and me. With plastic gloves, a container for recyclables, and a container for ordinary refuse I embark on weekly morning walks to Trinity United Church. I tidy the outdoor premises. On these particular walks, I enjoy the cheerful sounds of singing birds winding up their morning feeding. This tidying serves both the church and me. So, tidying brings with it the satisfaction of doing something for the church – creating neat grounds. Like song 30 in More Voices "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker." As well, it gives me the satisfaction of fresh air, the joy of additional movement, and the benefit of singing birds improving my mornings.

- Tom Jones



Service of Remembrance and Hope

December 16

7:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Anglican Church



The holidays can be hard for those going through a tough time. Those who have experienced hardship - like the loss of a loved one or a painful divorce - are twice as likely to associate the holidays with negative feelings like sadness, loneliness and worry. At this time of year, it has long been our practice to offer a special Christmas service for those who are experiencing loss.

Because it is an emotional time, sometimes loss is felt more keenly, and we can feel isolated if we don't share the feelings of celebration that appear around us. This year we are glad to be able to return to our practice of sharing with other Portage la Prairie churches to offer a Service of Remembrance and Hope for those who are feeling loss at Christmas. It is offered jointly this year by First Presbyterian, McKenzie United, St. Mary's Anglican and Trinity United. It is a brief service that acknowledges the complicated emotions of this season, and encourages participants to light a candle in honour of their loss.

This year it will be held on **December 16, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary's la Prairie Anglican Church.** A time of

refreshments will follow. A livestream option will not be available, but we do plan to record the service and make it available on our YouTube Channel after that date for those who cannot join us in person. Everyone who is interested is most welcome. If you have any questions, please be in touch with Julie at the church.

Sunday mornings you can access our online feed through our zoom platform from wherever you are! The zoom link is emailed each week, is available on our website, and is posted in our Facebook group. If you need help accessing our online worship, please be in touch with the church office.

You are always welcome to come through the front doors and join us in person! Doors open before 10 a.m. and we start at 10:30 a.m.



Nurturing Faith and Spirituality

Nurturing faith is something we discuss on a regular basis in our religious circles. It is part of the God talk that seeks to actively engage,

cultivate, strengthen, or deepen our beliefs and trust in our religious (spiritual) path. This path creates opportunities for growth as it integrates different practices. It becomes a commitment to faith-seeking-understanding. Today, we have so many ways we can nurture faith apart from doing Bible study, prayer, meditation, or



reading books. It is an integrated approach that seeks to find meaning beyond the usual spaces. It may involve journaling, morning or evening walks, quiet reflection, interacting with creation, or hearing things anew (deep and sacred listening). The list is too long to be exhausted here! However, this revolutionary approach highlights the connection that humans have with God as they interact with rest of creation and creatures.

Therefore, this Advent when we have less outdoor activities, we can turn to God and ourselves to determine the connection we make out of this season. Think about the opportunities Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's celebration, and many other events present to us. They bring the joy of being in community and seeking the divine together. Particularly, on Christmas Eve and Christmas, we welcome the Child Jesus in our communities with hope, love, joy and peace. Our connection with God enhances our social connection that builds the social fabric of our communities.

Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year!
From Trinity United

2026 UCC Calendars are here! Get ready to welcome the

new year with a fresh United Church of Canada calendar — now available for just \$10 each! Pick one up, enjoy the beautiful photos all year long, and help our UCW raise a little extra support while you are at it.



Peace with Creation - Forgiveness

Our Stewardship theme this year is 'Peace with Creation - Forgiveness'. We hope you have read our material and if you haven't had a chance to read it yet, please take some time to read it :)

We are including our operating budget vs actual to October 31, 2025. You will note that as at October 31, we are showing a deficit of only \$4,788 when compared to what we had budgeted. Conversely, our actual expenses over our actual income are higher!

At Trinity, historically we do see a significant amount of donations made to the church during November and December. If you feel inclined to send an additional amount this year, it would be gratefully received.

Thank you for your continued financial support!

The Stewardship Team

Trinity United Church				
Operating Budget vs. Actual 2025				
Summary to October 31, 2025				
	Oct 31-25	Actual to Date	Budget 2025	% Budget to Date
<u>Income</u>				
Offerings	\$ 12,140.36	\$ 113,067.13	\$ 175,000.00	65%
UCW	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	80%
Rentals	\$ 3,205.00	\$ 28,095.00	\$ 32,260.00	87%
Honouraria	\$ 450.00	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	190%
Special Events	\$ -	\$ 300.00		
Interest	\$ 129.89	\$ 1,479.62	\$ 1,200.00	123%
GST Rebate	\$ -	\$ 2,149.78	\$ 1,500.00	143%
Investing in Our Future	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 50,000.00	75%
Total Operating Income	\$ 28,425.25	\$ 190,391.53	\$ 266,960.00	71%
<u>Expenses</u>				
Personnel	\$ 32,438.00	\$ 241,404.31	\$ 257,145.96	94%
Cost Sharing with MacGregor United	\$ (5,843.14)	\$ (43,011.09)	\$ (49,828.21)	86%
United Church of Canada	\$ 3,164.75	\$ 12,659.00	\$ 12,659.00	100%
Office	\$ 420.25	\$ 9,268.79	\$ 12,325.00	75%
Program Supplies	\$ (115.00)	\$ 1,007.18	\$ 1,475.00	68%
Interest Groups	\$ -	\$ 91.79	\$ 1,275.00	7%
Property	\$ 3,147.93	\$ 36,130.33	\$ 45,400.00	80%
Total Operating Expense	\$ 33,212.79	\$ 257,550.31	\$ 280,451.75	92%
<u>Surplus/Deficit</u>	\$ (4,787.54)	\$ (67,158.78)	\$ (13,491.75)	



Gifts of Grace (aka White Gift Sunday)



Have you noticed how language changes over time? At one time "Awesome" only referred to God, or something that truly caused "awe". In the 1980s or so, "awesome" came to describe lots of things that you thought were pretty great.

Today the word "text" is a verb! And let's not even start on whatever "6-7" means these days! Lately we have realized that "White Gift" no longer has any relation to the charitable gifts that we share in this season, and it might even be confusing (at best) to those who do not have history with it.

So we have been trying to shift our language. **On December 7**, let's share gifts of grace with our community. Bring your non-perishable food items, unwrapped new toys or gifts or gift cards and we shall help fill the Salvation Army Christmas Hampers. Donated toiletries will be shared with CMHA or the Family Violence Prevention Centre. And don't forget the socks that will be tossed and sent to the reaching home program. Gifts of grace indeed!



"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."

As you receive your Christmas cards and letters this year, please take a few moments to save the stamps. The UCW saves stamps to support the leprosy fund. The value of these stamps is increased if the postal cancellation is marked over the stamp. Stamps may be left at the church office.



Name that Christmas Carol! *From a few lyrics, can you name the song?*

1. "Shepherds quake at the sight":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. I'll Be Home For Christmas
 - d. We Three Kings
2. "And Heaven and nature sing":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. While Shepherds Watched
 - d. White Christmas
3. "field and fountain, moor and mountain":
 - a. Jingle Bells
 - b. Silent Night
 - c. Good King Wenceslas
 - d. We Three Kings
4. "Tis the season to be jolly":
 - a. Deck the Halls
 - b. While Shepherds Watched
 - c. Jingle Bells
 - d. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
5. "God and sinners reconciled":
 - a. Come O Come Emmanuel
 - b. Come All Ye Faithful
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
6. "Disperse the gloomy clouds of night":
 - a. Come All Ye Faithful

- b. Come O Come Emmanuel
 - c. Hark the Herald Angels
 - d. The First Noel
7. "Joyful and triumphant":
 - a. Come All Ye Faithful
 - b. Joy to the World
 - c. Deck the Halls
 - d. Ave Maria
 8. "Looked down where he lay":
 - a. The First Noel
 - b. Little Town of Bethlehem
 - c. Angels from the Realms of Glory
 - d. Away in a Manger
 9. "Christ is born in Bethlehem":
 - a. See Amid the Winter's Snow
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ding Dong Merrily on High
 - d. Away in a Manger
 10. "On a cold winter's night that was so deep":
 - a. Away in a Manger
 - b. The First Noel
 - c. Ave Maria
 - d. Deck the Halls



(Answers are on last page)

Big Brothers, Big Sisters Winter Wonderland

November 28 – 30

Trinity United Church

Friday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Coffee House (Adult Only)

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tickets: 5-12 \$5, 13+ \$15, under 5 free

Available at the door
(cash preferred)

Warning – Advent Virus

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner hope, peace, joy & love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.) ☺
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the



uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this warning out to all your friends. This virus can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

Westminster United Church presents

2nd Annual Sing Along Messiah!
Sunday, November 30 at 3 p.m.

Second Floor Concert Hall,
Westminster United Church
(stair access only)

Doors open around 2 p.m.
Bring your own score or borrow one of ours.

Soloists: Sonia Campbell,
Joanna Loepp Thiessen,
Aaron Addorisio, and
Jayden Fraser, and chamber
orchestra

Donations welcome, in support
of Westminster
United Church
& the Music
Program
Featuring the
Westminster

Name that Christmas Carol! (Answers)

1. b. Silent Night
2. b. Joy to the World
3. d. We Three Kings
4. a. Deck the Halls
5. c. Hark the Herald Angels
6. b. Come O Come Emmanuel
7. a. Come All Ye Faithful
8. d. Away in a Manger
9. a. See Amid the Winter's Snow
10. b. The First Noel



Our next baptism Sunday at Trinity is planned for **Sunday, January 11**. If you are interested please be in touch with Julie, Elijah or the church office.

Here's an option for people who need a medical appointment, but don't need to be seen in person. Free virtual healthcare service available 24/7, evenings & weekends. Online Doctor for Manitoba and Canadian Residents. Your walk in clinic services from home. Source: QDoc - Virtual Healthcare 24/7 <https://search.app/bLWcd5rJUFEsRyVr7>

There's a Spot for You!

Trinity has a limited number of parking spaces with plug-ins now available to rent. If you need a warm start on those cold mornings, this is a simple and affordable option. The cost is \$25 per month, and that includes full access to the plug-in. If you'd like to reserve a spot or need more information, please contact the church office (204-857-4471).



Let the UCW do your baking this season! Our UCW has a delicious lineup of homemade goodies ready for purchase (\$7/dozen) following worship on **Sunday, December 14**. Treat



yourself, stock up for guests, or skip the kitchen altogether - your support helps their ongoing

work in our church community.

Looking for a way to donate from the convenience of home? There are options. Use your smartphone to scan this QR code and it will take you to Canada Helps, and you can donate to Trinity with a credit card. Or you can send an e-transfer any time to trinityu@mts.net



SCAN ME